

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. One of the most popular media of mass propaganda in Communist Rumania is that of motion pictures. Soviet, satellite and western produced films are presented. Soviet and satellite films always praise the USSR and its production as ranking first in the world. However, people have seen Soviet products at fairs in Bucharest and recognize the poor quality as compared, for example, with German products which are exhibited.
2. Films from the so-called capitalist countries were not shown before the World Youth Festival which was held in Bucharest in August 1953. Films from the west, particularly Italian and French films, are very popular and the Rumanian populace flocked to see the English film, Hamlet. Even the most successful films from the west play for only one week while Soviet films, no matter how poor, play for two weeks.
3. Motion picture theaters are all State-owned. Theaters in the center of Bucharest charge admission prices of 2.25 to 3 lei, while those on the outskirts of town charge 1.25 lei. Tickets for Soviet films are sold at the box office or by Cultural Chiefs in institutes and enterprises. Each theater has an income quota. When this is not met because of the poor quality of films, the Ministry of Culture presents films from the West. New American films are presented in special theaters for high Party officials and for high officials of the Ministry of the Interior and of the People's Security. These films are also shown to newspaper men, higher officials of Agerpress, and of the Institute of Rumanian-Soviet Studies in order that they may be criticized from the ideological point of view.
4. Film caravans showing Soviet successes, particularly in agriculture, travel about the country. Soviet and satellite films are shown gratis at special celebrations.

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